

CLAIMS

1. A composite prosthesis for reinforcement of a tissue structure, comprising a
5 porous textile support which includes an arrangement of threads each
composed of at least one filament of nonabsorbable polymer material, said
textile support defining a microporous texture comprising the interstices
located between at least two threads at the sites of contact of one thread
with at least one other thread, wherein, in at least one protected zone of the
10 textile support, a hydrophilic absorbable material coats the textile support,
forming a film enveloping and penetrating into the arrangement of threads,
occluding at least the microporous texture, but without forming a plane
layer covering at least one face of the textile support.
- 15 2. The prosthesis as claimed in claim 1, wherein the textile support also
defines a macroporous texture comprising the volumes whose surface S is
defined by the empty spaces between at least two threads away from their
sites of contact, and whose height H is defined by the thickness of the
textile support, and wherein the film of absorbable material is
20 noncontinuous and preserves the macroporous texture of the textile
support.
3. The prosthesis as claimed in claim 1, wherein the textile support constitutes
a two-dimensional structure.

4. The prosthesis as claimed in claim 1, wherein the film has a thickness of less than or equal to 500 microns.
5. The prosthesis as claimed in claim 4, wherein the film has a thickness of from 10 to 100 microns.
6. The prosthesis as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one thread comprises several filaments of nonabsorbable polymer material, and the microporous texture additionally comprises the interstices between filaments of the same thread.
7. The prosthesis as claimed in claim 1, wherein the protected zone has a surface completely covering that of the textile support.
8. The prosthesis as claimed in claim 1, wherein the textile support has the shape of a rectangular part and the protected zone extends along a central band of said part.
9. The prosthesis as claimed in claim 1, wherein it is in the shape of a strip with parallel edges, the central part being a protected zone.
10. The prosthesis as claimed in claim 1, wherein it is in the shape of a strip with parallel edges which are curved in an arch, the central part being a protected zone.

11. The prosthesis as claimed in claim 1, wherein it is in the shape of a strip with nonparallel edges, the bulged central part being a protected zone and the narrower lateral parts being nonprotected.
- 5 12. The prosthesis as claimed in claim 2, wherein the film occludes the macroporosity of the textile support over at least part of the protected zone.
13. The prosthesis as claimed in claim 12, wherein the film occludes the macroporosity of the textile support over the whole of the protected zone.
- 10 14. The prosthesis as claimed in claim 1, wherein the absorbable material is chosen from the group formed by collagens, polysaccharides, and their mixtures.
- 15 15. The prosthesis as claimed in claim 1, wherein the tissue structure is an extraperitoneal tissue.
16. The prosthesis as claimed in claim 1, wherein the arrangement of threads constitutes a knitted structure.
- 20 17. The prosthesis as claimed in claim 16, wherein the interstices located between at least two threads at the site of contact of one thread with at least one other thread belong to the meshes of the knitted structure.

18. The prosthesis as claimed in claim 16, wherein the empty spaces defined between the threads, away from their sites of contact, are the intermesh spaces of the knitted structure.
- 5 19. A process for preparing a composite prosthesis for reinforcement of a tissue structure, said process comprising the following steps:
- i) preparing a solution A of a hydrophilic absorbable material, in the fluid or liquid state,
 - 10 - ii) impregnating at least part of the surface of a porous textile support with solution A, said porous textile support comprising an arrangement of threads each composed of at least one filament of nonabsorbable polymer material, said textile support defining a microporous texture which includes the interstices located between
15 at least two threads at the sites of contact of one thread with at least one other thread,
 - iii) drying the impregnated part of the textile support.
- 20 20. The process as claimed in claim 19, wherein the impregnation step is done by immersing said part of the surface of the textile support in solution A.
21. The process as claimed in claim 19, wherein the impregnation step is done by spraying solution A onto said part of the surface of the textile support.

22. The process as claimed in claim 19, wherein solution A has a viscosity of less than or equal to 1000 centipoises.

23. A composite reinforcement prosthesis obtainable by the process as claimed in claim 19.

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